



St. Rita Catholic Church

89-318 Farrington Hwy. Nanakuli, Hawaii 96792

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> 808-672-5437 860-908-5954 808-3086261 609-381-1193 808-668-7833 808-668-7716

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at **5:00 PM**

Sunday at 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM

Confessions: Saturday from 3:15 to 4:00 PM or at the Rectory by appointment

Infant Baptism: Contact Parish Office

Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact the Pastor 6 months before the wedding date for an appointment.

Funerals: Contact the Pastor before going to the Mortuary

We, the people of God of St. Rita Parish in Nanakuli, are united in our belief and in our commitment to Jesus Christ. In the spirit of aloha we respond to Christ's mission of love and freedom with our care, concern and communal action. This is expressed in the stewardship of our treasure through tithing and in the gift of our time and talents through shared ministries.

As a fast growing rural parish with a large Hawaiian population we feel a special calling to stand together in truth and justice for indigenous people of this land. As part of the universal Church, our outreach extends beyond our boundaries to the global community and we affirm the human dignity of all peoples. As a parish family we enthusiastically participate in bringing about God's reign of peace. We continue to evangelize, welcome and invite all of God's people to St. Rita Parish.

IF YOU	ARE NEW TO THE PARISH HAVE A NEW ADDRESS	HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER NEED OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	
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Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 10, 2025

Glorify the Lord, O Jerusalem!

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, August 9	5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, August 10	7:00 a.m.	Mass
	9:00 a. m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, August 11	7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Tuesday, August 12	7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Wednesday, August 13	7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	8:00 a. m	Communion Service
	9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, August 14	7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	8:00 a. m	Communion Service
Friday, August, 15	7:30 a.m	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	8:00 a. m	Communion Service
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED -
		ADMISSION DAY HOLIDAY
Saturday, August 16	3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	5:00 p.m.	Mass



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NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Jer:18:6-9: The princes were eager to kill Jeremiah because he constantly challenged them to follow God's law. The king allowed them to throw Jeremiah into a cistern. A friend interceded with the king and rescued Jeremiah. Hb:12:1-4: Let us repent of our sin and fix our eyes on the Lord. Jesus gave us an example of endurance and courage in the midst of struggle. In that way he inspires and perfects our faith.

Lk:12:49-53: Jesus announced to his disciples that he came to bring a hard message indeed, and some have not listened to it. That is why friends and families divide.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15)

Today's Solemnity has been referred to variably as the Blessed Virgin Mary's rest, birth into Heaven, entombment, and falling asleep. The earliest written references to Mary's Assumption date back to the third and fourth centuries. In the seventh century, Saint John Damascene wrote beautifully about Mary's Assumption in three sermons. He relates a tradition that Mary died in the presence of the Apostles, but that when her tomb was opened at St. Thomas' request, it was found empty

Today, just outside Jerusalem, next to the Garden of Gethsemane, pilgrims can find an ancient church, believed to have been the Blessed Virgin's burial site, from which she rose and was assumed into Heaven. Like Christ her Son, her tomb is empty.

The ancient belief in the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was elevated to the level of a dogma in 1950. As a dogma, the Church proclaimed that all the Catholic faithful must hold this belief as true and divinely revealed. It did not begin to be true in 1950; rather, that which had always been true was given great solemnity and clarity within Church teaching. The one deposit of faith—the truths in the mind of God revealed to us in Christ Jesus—does not change. Truth doesn't change; rather, our comprehension of the Truth deepens over time.

Dearest Mother, assumed into Heaven, you are the Immaculate Conception, the Ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. As we honor your glorious Assumption, please pray for me and for all your children. In Heaven, your Son honors you, and your prayers are most effective. I entrust myself, my family, our Church, and the entire world to your motherly care and intercession. Mary, assumed into Heaven, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You. (MyCatholicLife)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR

ADULTS:(former known as R. C. I. A)

"Do you or someone you know want to become a Catholic? Do you or someone you know want to complete the Catholic Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion, & Confirmation)? Do you want to do your part fulfilling the Church's evangelization goals? The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (or OCIA for short) is the process the Catholic Church uses to achieve these goals for those who desire to participate and become candidates. Here's a few details of the program:

- 1) St. Rita's OCIA program will begin **Sept 7**, **2025**.
- 2) OCIA candidates will meet roughly every other Sunday night at 6:30 pm in the church.
- 3) OCIA sessions will last for 1.5 hours. These sessions will be based on adult learning principles, with candidate participation a must. However, there will be no formal text or homework.
- 4) OCIA candidates will participate in some or all of the following ceremonies leading up to the Easter Vigil mass:
- a. Rite of Acceptance (beginning of Advent)
- b. Rite of Election (beginning of Lent)
- c. OCIA Scrutinies (during Lent)

If you or someone you know is interested, please call Mele or our OCIA Director (Don Gerry, 860-908-5954)"

WORD OF LIFE: "Although we may feel unsure how best to comfort those who mourn, we must stand with them in their time or suffering. Miscarriage touches the lives of many people, yet all too often this tragedy remains unaddressed. This lack of response not only often leads to unresolved grief but also fails to clearly manifest our belief that each person, from conception onwards, is precious and unique." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Solace and Strength in the Sorrow of Miscarriage"

WEEKLY READINGS

Aug 10 Sun: 19 TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wi:18:6-9; Ps:33; Hb:11:1-2, 8-19; Lk:12:32-48

Aug 11 Mon: Saint Clare, Virgin

Dt:10:12-22; Ps:147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mt:17:22-27

Aug 12 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

Dt:31:1-8; Ps:32:3-4ab, 7, 8, 9 & 12; Mt:18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Aug 13 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

Dt:34:1-12; Ps:66: 1-3a, 5 & 8, 16-17; Mt:18:15-20

Aug 14 Thur: Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr

Jos:3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Ps:114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt:18:21-19:1 Aug 15 Fri: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1 Chr:15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps:132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor:15:54b-57; Lk11:27-28

Aug 16 Sat: Ordinary Weekday

Jos:24:14-29; Ps:16;1-2a, & 5, 7-8, 11; Mt:19:13-15



NOTES OF STEWARDSHIP

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus concludes his teaching about those who are "faithful and prudent stewards" with that classic stewardship teaching: "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." Christian stewards recognized that God is the ultimate source of their gifts, talents, resources and aptitudes, and that God wants them to use these varied gifts in his service. This week might be a good time to reflect on our God-given gifts. Are we using those gifts to serve the Lord? If Christ came back to us unexpectedly tomorrow, would we be able to give a full accounting of how we have exercised stewardship over these gifts? (International catholic Stewardship Council)

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 3, 444.00
Candles	65.00
Mass Intention	90.00
Outreach	45.00

Total \$ 3, 644.00

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund \$ 370.00 Repair & Maintenance 230.00

Total \$ 605.00

ON-LINE GIVING (JULY)

Operation Funds Collection:

General Collection \$ 5, 735.00 Outreach 1,085.00

Total \$6,820.00

Restricted Collection:

Building Fund \$ 4, 462.50 Repair & Maintenance 445.00

Total \$4,907.50

MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE



Be like those awaiting their master's return so when he arrives, you can open the door without delay.

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19th Sunday in Ordinary Time C August 10, 2025

Ka Leo O Ke Kahuhipa - Aloha 'Ohana Nui'ia

Our Prayers and Condolences to Dutro & Wolfe Ohana. +Sandy Dutro passed away Wednesday, July 20th. Our prayers & condolences to Stephen (dad) and Dutro Ohana. Funeral date for +Sandy Dutro is still pending.

+Thomas Wolfe's funeral mass took place this past Saturday, we extend our prayers and condolences to Wolfe Ohana.

Leaving for Guam for Family Funeral

I will be off to Guam for the funeral of my brother +Joseph who died last week. I will be away from the parish from Sunday, August 10th to Friday, August 29th. Please keep my brother **+Joseph** in your prayers.

Eternal Rest Grand Unto, +Sandy, +Thomas & +Joseph O Lord, and Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them. May Their Souls and the Souls of All the Faithful Departed in the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace, Amen. I am combining with my vacation days so that I can stay longer and assist the family.

Scripture Reflections.

Old Testament: Wisdom 18: 6 - 9

Background Context: The Book of Wisdom is the last Old Testament Book to be written, likely in Alexandria, Egypt in the 1st century BCE. It was composed in Greek by a Jew living outside Palestine, not King Salomon as some traditional interpretations suggest. It was written for Jews scattered throughout the Roman Empire. Since most of those Jews had forgotten their mother tongue, Aramaic, the book was written in Greek the language most spoken at that time. That explains why the Jews back at home (Palestine) did not list the book among their sacred writings. Neither do Protestants include it in their Bible, though the Church acknowledged it as inspired more than one thousand years before the Protestantism appear in the world.

The **Book of Wisdom** takes us back to the powerful night in history of God's people in the night of Exodus. The Israelites were still slaves in Egypt, but God had told them that freedom was coming. God had asked them to trust Him and prepare the Passover meal and be ready, even though they could not see – witness the miracle yet, they believed and obeyed. God had prepared their rescue, and God did not act on impulse, God gave them

time to prepare the Passover meal and be ready. Even though the Israelites could not see the miracle, yet they believed and obeyed.

Those Jews outside Palestine had a problem, living as they did in the midst of people more educated than they were, many of them, particularly among the young abandoned their religion and started living the pagan way. The author of the **Book of Wisdom** in an effort to strengthen the Israelites recalled to them the history of their ancestors, especially Abraham and the important Exodus events and all that God had done for their forefathers in the past.

Application to Life: In today's first reading the author of Wisdom made a rallying call to the Jews living far from homeland to recall and remember in their mind and heart the first **Passover**, that famous night in Egypt when the angel of the Lord killed the first born of all Egyptians families, leaving all Jewish families unharmed, as they happily celebrated the **Passover** meal for the first time, eating the lamb which they had sacrificed under the direct instructions of Moses as told by the Lord.

The author of the **Book of Wisdom** intended for his audience to reflect how the same event has brought sorrow to the Egyptians and freedom to the people of Isreal. According to the author, it is utter folly to follow the sinful lives of the people around the gentiles - nonbelievers; there is true wisdom in being faithful to God, who has proved ever faithful to His promises; life does not end here below, as many sinners (Gentiles) proclaim.

This passage in **Wisdom** exhorted them and at the same time helped them to remember that God is always faithful. This same message applies to all of us as disciples for we too must recall and cherish who we are as children of God and what God has done for us when answers seemed to be slow in coming God keeps His promises.

In short, those Jews were told they had nothing to be ashamed or feel less about their Jewish faith among the gentiles whose earthly wisdom attracted many. The Jews had rich history which they were not to forget and even though they may not see their life's whole picture at that moment, God had a plan and God invited them to be faithful. Those same lessons taught by the author of **Book of Wisdom** applies to us today in our time. Just as the author reminded them of their past which was far more glorious than that of any other gentile nations that surrounded them. The wisdom which God gave, even to the illiterate but faithful people who kept faithful to God's Commandments are far superior to any human wisdom, even that of most learned people among them. **Truly a timely message for us today**, especially to many young Catholic Christians who are tempted to look at other Christian denominations or even at Eastern religions often finding them attractive by

the esoteric or by easier – human solutions to challenges Catholics faith calls, for "higher moral standards" – obedience to all 10 Commandments not selective of only ones found to be convenient. In our modern culture – society with normalized promiscuity many not just the young are wept away. How we all need to revisit the teachings of the Catholic Church and to understand what rich history the Catholic Church firmly stood on through the two millennia! Never forget the countless faithful men, women and children of all ages who had sacrificed so much to witness to the Faith.

New Testament: Hebrews 11: 1 - 2, 8 - 19

<u>Background Context</u>: Little over hundred years after the <u>Book of Wisdom</u> had been written for Jews living outside Palestine, dispersed throughout the Roman Empire, a disciple of Paul whose name we do not know wrote the <u>Letter to the Hebrews</u> written between **60 and 100 AD**: this time for the group of Jews who had become Christians.

They, too, the new Christians converts had been compelled to abandon their land and lived surrounded by non-Christians Jews and by pagans. They were persecuted by both the pagans who laughed at them and by their fellow Jews who considered them traitors to the faith of their fathers by becoming Christians. In their discouragement they greatly missed Jerusalem, their beloved city and particularly the Temple, and the solemn worship they had offered there as Jews. And since their Christian faith was still new, they may have started to wonder if they might have made a mistake becoming Christians.

The author who likely was a disciple of Paul, wrote the **Letter to the Hebrews**, to help them deepened their faith and thus prevent them from taking a wrong step of going back to Judaism. In his letter, the author recalls to their mind the example of their ancestors, Abraham particular, who kept their faith in God despite many adversities. Abraham left his country in obedience to God, having no knowledge whatsoever of the country which God was commanding him to go.

On arriving there, God, promised Abraham that He would give that country to his descendants (**Genesis 12:7**). Abraham could have questioned God why He could not give it to him right away or at least during his lifetime, but God did not; Abraham died trusting that God would surely keep His promise.

<u>Application to Life:</u> The author of the Book of Hebrews reminds us that faith is not just wishful thinking. It is confidence in God's promises even when we cannot see them yet. We read how Abraham obeyed God's call to leave his homeland even though he did not know where he was going.

Now that takes a real faith, letting go of the familiar and stepping into the unknown because God commanded him to do so. Abraham trusted that his life was part of much bigger plan. Even more amazing, Abraham believed God's promise that he would have many descendants even though he and Sarah were old and childless. Why? Because Abraham considered God faithful, who had made the promise.

Have you ever found yourself facing situations where you could not see the outcome or make sense of what God may be doing in your life? I think we all have experienced such times. In such times as we face death of our loved ones, in being lay off from a job or simply finding less enthusiasm in striving to live a life of faithful discipleship as a Christian father, mother, son or daughter. I am sure there are countless situations where we have faced life's challenges that have shaken us to the core.

Today's passage from Hebrews reminds us that faith is about taking the next step trusting that God would be faithful even when we cannot see life's whole picture that lies ahead of us. How timely are the words from **Book of Hebrews** instructing us that faith is defined as "assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1.

A dramatic climax of Abraham's faith: his willingness to offer his son Issac (Genesis 22). The author praises Abraham's logic: he trusted in God's ability to raise the death, the first explicit reference to resurrection faith in Hebrews. The phrase "figuratively speaking" acknowledges that Issac's return was kind of symbolic resurrection, prefiguring Christ's actual resurrection. And so, God's message for those Jews persecuted for having become Christians and to us who also face much challenge to strive to be faithful to Jesus Christ is the message God did not fail our forefathers, even if at times, it seemed God promises may not be fulfil God will not fail us if we are faithful. "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and will heal their land" **2 Chronicles 7:14.** Let us persevere in our faith in our parish endeavor to build a new parish social hall despite seemingly unsurmountable obstacles that seem to come in our path. Of course, we must continue to pray and seek God's assistance as we do every week, but also to manifest to God our need for a meeting place-social hall. That our beloved church is not our social hall or a meeting place, it is a place to gather to worship our God with reverence and awe. May God who sees us with our dire need for a place to talk long stories and not just greetings, a place to laugh out loud, to stand and move around as one would do in a social hall – a meeting place would surely be moved and stoop down from heaven to hear our prayers. For our God would deeply be moved as God see our acknowledgement of the sacredness of our beloved St. Rita Church and His

presence. The church structure is 117 years old, and it cannot be expected to stand for many more years to come without some major foundational upkeeping. But we need to first vacate to another building temporarily while major repairs can be done.

Can you bear witness to others and be "the light of the world and the salt of the earth"

Matthew 5:13-16. One day sooner than we expect, we too like Abraham, shall realize that God is indeed faithful, faithful beyond all expectations.

Gospel: Luke 12: 32-48

Background Context: Luke chapter 12 is part of Jesus' longer discourse on discipleship and the coming of the kingdom. Jesus is speaking to His disciples, likely with in a larger crowd (Luke 12: 1). The entire chapter deals with the theme of being vigilant, trusting in God, being detached from wealth and the preparation of the second coming of the Son of Man. The section from verse 38-48 continues this theme presenting a combination of encouragement "Do not be afraid little flock" and serious of warning - the parable of the faithful and unfaithful servant. Luke is writing to the Gentile-Christians, and he emphasizes a universal eschatological – final message: readiness, watchfulness, and judgement on those who entrusted with responsibility.

Application to Life: Jesus addressed His disciples as tenderly as a "little flock," indicating both their vulnerability and His role as a Good Shepherd. The phrase "it has pleased the Father to give you the Kingdom" points to God's initiative: the Kingdom is not earned but freely given as grace. Truly an encouragement and not to fear is important to Luke's teaching in context of facing persecution, societal rejection, and martyrdom which were real concern for the early Christians, just as it is for so many Christians today. "Persecution of Christians Approaching Genocide Levels," reported by Christian National Foundation. "Sell your possessions..." This teaching is not just about almsgiving but about reorienting one's entire heart toward the heavenly treasure. "The money bags that do not grow old" signify eternal security, contrasting with the rich fool (Luke 12: 13-21). "Stand ready the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect "Luke 12:30. The imagery is eschatological – toward the end of time, as such the disciples must live in readiness for the return of the Master – Jesus Christ. Verse 37 is striking: the Master will serve the servants, a radical inversion of societal norms, pointing to the selfgiving love of Jesus Christ (John 13:4-5). Indeed, it is a beautiful twist; when the Master returns and finds the servants ready, the Master serves them. What a powerful image that God who is the Master stooping down to serve His servants He found faithful! This reveals to us about God that we often may not have thought much about. That is God is not a harsh taskmaster but a loving Lord who rejoices in our faithfulness and in the joy He

himself is willing to serve the servants. The Beatitude like promise is here expressed, "blessed are those servants..." affirming the blessedness of the watchful and faithfulness. "Stand ready the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" Luke 12:40.

The parable of the thief at night emphasized the surprise and urgency that we tend to be caught off guard. "Gird your loins and light your lamps..." is a warning to live every moment of our lives in view of eternity. Most of all we are not to let our earthly possessions possess us. This tragic fall can be simply explained by Jesus' warning "for where treasure is, there also will your heart be found." Luke 12:34. Simply put by reflecting where our hearts are drawn to in our lives, it reveals the truth of what we truly treasure, not what we think we treasure. Peter who enquired from Jesus if what He taught was meant only for them or for everyone. The question triggered a clarification: Jesus' teaching is not just for the disciples, it is for everyone, but especially for those who are entrusted with responsibilities; parents, teachers and leaders.

The parable further illustrates the different kinds of servants: The **faithful and prudent** servant who is rewarded and the **negligent** servants who abused power are punished severely; Jesus further taught that a servant cannot plea ignorance, though not severely punished as the servants who knew, in comparison knowingly were negligent and disobedient. Yet that ignorant servant is still punished, though less harshly. **Verse 48** contains powerful principle: **"Much will be required of a person entrusted with more, and still much more demanded of the person entrusted with more." Luke 12: 48**. This is not only about authority but about grace, knowledge and the gifts all entrusted to each disciple, to each one of us and we are held accountable for such abundance of blessings graces:

Let us strive to be servants who live in anticipation, but not in anxiety. Readiness does not mean fearfully watching the clock as if the task master or our boss will come and suddenly surprise us in our work. It means that we keep our hearts and minds focus on heavenly things, loving God and neighbor and living justly in obedience to God's commandment that give life and purpose to each of our ability as God has graced us. To be faithful servants - stewards not out of fear. Jesus began His parable with tender and reassuring words "do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the Kingdom." Luke 12: 32. Jesus invites us to live with intention, not in panic but in peace, not out of fear but out of deep desire to be found ready to welcome Him not just at the end of time but in ordinary moments of each day. Have a Blessed Week in the Lord! Fr. Paulo ofm.cap.

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